

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
DEPARTMENT-WIDE LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS Q&A

BUREAU: FMS

TOPIC: Payments of Federal Benefits

Q1: Will the Treasury Department (FMS) be able to send Social Security checks or other federal benefit payments?

A: Yes, Social Security and other benefit payments will continue to be issued as long as FMS receives the payment files from the Social Security Administration and other benefit agencies.

In accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-7, FMS is required to ensure national critical infrastructure functions as designated by the Department of the Treasury including payments, collections, and daily cash management and processing of essential authority/appropriation transactions, are fully operational at all times. This includes resources to support disbursements of interest on the debt, disbursements to Social Security and other benefit recipients, and maintaining critical government-wide accounting activities, as well as activities related to borrowing and tax collection.

TOPIC: Debt Collection

Q1: Will delinquent child support payments, student loan debt payments, and other delinquent government debt be collected during a lapse in appropriations?

A: Yes, the Treasury Department will continue to collect this debt. These functions are excepted and not dependent upon annual appropriations.

BUREAU: IRS

TOPIC: Tax Refunds and Payments

Q1: Will taxpayers receive refunds from the IRS during a lapse in appropriations?

A: Individuals should keep filing their tax returns with the IRS and are required to do so by April 18th unless they obtain a six-month extension. The IRS will be accepting all tax returns. Once they've been accepted, the IRS will generally process and issue refunds for electronically filed individual returns. Individuals are urged to file electronically, because most of these returns are processed automatically and should not be delayed. Because of limited IRS staffing, paper returns will be accepted, but will not be processed in the event of a government shutdown and taxpayers who file paper returns will

experience a delay in receiving their refunds. Limited telephone customer service functions will remain available, but IRS taxpayer assistance centers will be closed.

Q2: Will taxpayers be able to submit tax returns to the IRS during a lapse in appropriations?

A: Yes. Individuals should file their tax returns on time, and are required to do so by April 18th. Tax collecting is an established excepted function to protect property, and IRS will operate service centers and call sites to the extent necessary to enable taxpayers to meet their filing obligation.

Q3: Why has IRS extended the Tax Deadline to the 18th?

A: Holidays in the District of Columbia have the same impact as federal holidays on tax deadlines. This year, the District of Columbia's Emancipation Day is being observed on Friday, April 15th, which means the tax deadline is pushed back until Monday, April 18th.

Q4: Should taxpayers continue making tax payments and payroll deposits during this period?

A: Yes. Everyone should continue to file and pay taxes as normal.

BUREAU: TTB

TOPIC: Applications for Permits

Q1: Will I be able to submit my alcohol/tobacco permit?

A: All transactional features of TTB's public web site, www.ttb.gov, will be unavailable during a lapse in appropriations period. There also will be no access to TTB's e-Government applications including, but not limited to, Permits Online, Formulas Online, and COLAs Online.

Further, TTB operations, with the exception of tax remittance processing, will be suspended and no personnel will be available to respond to any inquiries, including emails, telephone calls, facsimiles, or other communications. The Web site and operations will resume when appropriations are re-enacted.

BUREAU: BPD

TOPIC: Savings Bonds, Auctions & other BPD Functions

Q1: Will people be able to purchase savings bonds during a lapse in appropriations?

A: Yes. All of the Bureau of the Public Debt functions will continue during a government lapse in appropriations. This includes the retail services division that issues savings bonds. TreasuryDirect.gov, where you can purchase savings bonds online, will continue to operate in the event of a lapse in appropriations.

Q2: Will Treasury Auctions be held as scheduled?

A: Yes

Q3: Will Treasury continue to borrow money to fund government activities and pay interest on the public debt?

A: Yes. These functions are excepted and will continue during a lapse in appropriations.

Q4: Will the State and Local Government Series Securities window remain open?

A: Yes

Q5: Will the FedInvest System be available?

A: Yes

Q6: Will staff be available to take phone calls, answer emails and other correspondence?

A: Yes, full contact list is located here: <http://www.treasurydirect.gov/call.htm>

BUREAU: DO

TOPIC: Federal Debt and Borrowing

Q1: Will www.treasury.gov remain live?

A: Yes, Treasury's website will be live and updated with all of the information the Department is required to update. For example, the SDN list, interest rate statistics, investor class auction allotments, quarterly refunding documents, Treasury International Capital System (TIC) data will be live and updated when necessary.

Q2: Will Treasury meet its debt obligations?

A: Yes. Treasury will continue borrowing and debt programs as necessary to meet the Government's financial obligations and avoid, or minimize, disruptions to the government's financing schedule.